

REMARKS

Examiner T. Phan is thanked for the thorough examination and search of the subject Patent Application. Claims 1-46 have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 47-87.

The Claims have been canceled and new Claims written which it is believed overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 first and second paragraphs.

All Claims are believed to be in condition for Allowance, and that is so requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 of Claims 1-2, 25-27, and 38-46 as being anticipated by Tetsuo Uchiyama is requested in view of new Claims 47-87 and in accordance with the following remarks.

Uchiyama's patent publication teaches forming slots in an aluminum wiring "in every prescribed pitch" of the wiring. In contrast, Applicant's invention concerns copper lines and provides a slot only in the vicinity of a single isolated via (see page 17 of the Specification and lines 6-9 of Claim 47, for example.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 of Claim 1-2, 25-27, and 38-46 as being anticipated by Tetsuo Uchiyama is requested in view of new Claims 47-87 and in accordance with the remarks above.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 of Claims 1-37 as being unpatentable over Andricocos et al in view of Kazushiko Kasahara is requested in view of new Claims 47-87 and in accordance with the following remarks.

It is agreed that Andricocos et al teaches fabricating copper alloy interconnection lines. Kasahara teaches formation of "a plurality of rows of slits 16" (first line of the Constitution). Applicant's invention provides a slot in a copper line only in the vicinity

of a single isolated via. This important distinction has been claimed in new Claims 47-87. Neither reference teaches or suggests placing a stress-relieving slot only in the vicinity of a single isolated via.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 of Claims 1-37 as being unpatentable over Andricocos et al in view of Kazushiko Kasahara is requested in view of new Claims 47-87 and in accordance with the remarks above.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 of Claims 38-46 as being unpatentable over Andricocos et al in view of Kazushiko Kasahara and further in view of Lur et al is requested in view of new Claims 47-87 and in accordance with the following remarks.

It is believed that the new claims, specifically claims 53-55, for example, claim the unique shape of the slot of Applicant's invention which is different from the continuous trench of Lur et al. Furthermore, the new Claims claim the key feature of Applicant's invention wherein the slot is formed only in the vicinity of a single isolated via. This limitation is not taught or suggested by any of the references.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 of Claims 38-46 as being unpatentable over Andricocos et al in view of Kazushiko Kasahara and further in view of Lur et al is requested in view of new Claims 47-87 and in accordance with the remarks above.

Allowance of all Claims is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

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It is requested that should Examiner Phan not find that the Claims are now Allowable that the Examiner call the undersigned at 765 4530866 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Ackerman', written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 1-46.